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has forty or fifty at once; and M. de Maupertuis found forty-two young ones in the body of a female salamander, and fifty-four in another. The young ones are generally black, almost without spots; and this colour they preserve sometimes during their whole lives in certain countries, where they have been taken for a distinct species.

THE GREEN LIZARD.

The green lizard of Carolina is so denominated from its colour. This species is very slender, the tail is near double the length of the body, and the whole length about five inches. It inhabits Carolina; where it is domestic, familiar, and harmless. It sports on tables and windows, and amuses with its agility in catching flies. Cold affects the colour; in that uncertain climate, when there is a quick transition in the same day from hot to cold, it changes instantly from the most brilliant green to a dull brown. They are a prey to cats and ravenous birds. They appear chiefly in summer; and at the approach of cold weather retire to their winter recesses, and lie torpid in the hollow crevices of rotten trees. A few warm, sunny days often so invigorate them, that they will come out of their holes and appear abroad; when on a sudden, the weather changing to cold so enfeebles them, that they are unable to return to their retreats, and die of cold.

THE SIREN.

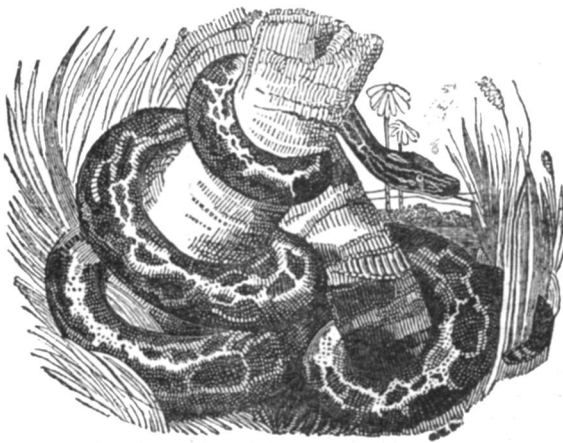
Notwithstanding the fabulous history of the Siren, recent naturalists have classed the species in no higher a grade than that of *muræna*, which includes *eels* of every description.

The sirens, or sirenes, in fabulous history, were celebrated songstresses, who were ranked among the demigods of antiquity, as half women and half fish. Some say that the Syrens were queens of the islands named Sirenusæ, and chiefly inhabited the promontory of Minerva, upon the top of which that goddess had a temple, built by Ulysses. Others tell us of a certain bay, contracted within winding straits and broken cliffs, which, by the singing of the winds and beating of the waters, returns a delightful harmony that allures the passenger to approach, who is immediately thrown against the rocks, and swallowed up by the violent eddies. Horace calls idleness a siren. But the fable may be applied to pleasures in general, which, if too eagerly pursued, betray the incautious into ruin.

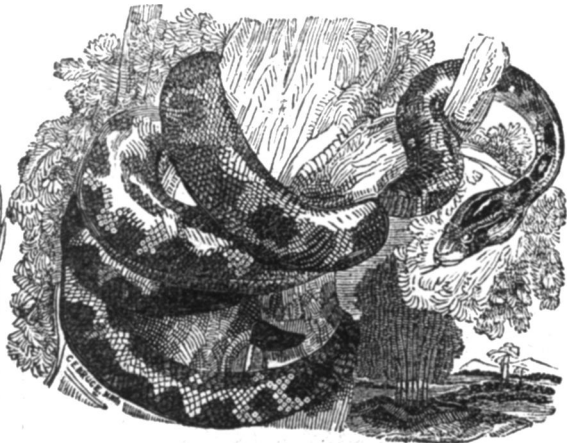
Browne, in his "Vulgar Errors," observes, "Few eyes have escaped the picture of a mermaid, with woman's head above, and fishy extremity below, answering the shape of the ancient Sirens that attempted upon Ulysses—

" 'Did sense persuade Ulysses not to hear
The mermaids' songs, which so his men did please,
That they were all persuaded, through the ear,
To quit the ship, and leap into the seas?'"

The following description of a Mermaid, is given by a Correspondent of the Magazine of Natural History:—"A few years back a mermaid was shown in London. This specimen was said to come from Japan. I can aver that it came from the East Indies; for, being at St. Helena in 1813, I saw it on board the ship which was bringing it to England. The impression on my mind was, that it was an artificial compound of the upper part of a small ape with the lower half of a fish; and being allowed to examine it as closely as I pleased externally, my attention was directed, by the aid of a powerful glass, to ascertain the point of union between the two parts. I confess I was somewhat staggered to find that this was so neatly effected, that the precise line of junction was not satisfactorily apparent. I speak of it in its best state of preservation; perhaps now the imposture can be more easily detected. A short time back, the skeleton of a mermaid, as it was called, was brought to Portsmouth, which had been shot in the vicinity of the island of Mombass. This was allowed to be submitted to the members of the Philosophical Society, when it proved to be the Dugong. The anatomy and natural history was illustrated by some of the members present, and briefly noticed in the Annual Report for 1826-7, p. 21. To those who came to the examination with preconceived notions of the fabulous mermaid, it certainly presented, as it lay on the lecture-table, a singular appearance. It was, if I recollect right, about six feet long: the lower dorsal vertebrae, with the broad caudal extremity, suggested the idea of a powerful fish-like termination; whilst the fore legs, from the scapula to the extremities of the phalanges, presented to the unskilful eye an exact resemblance to the bones of a small female arm. The cranium, however, had such an *outré* brutal form, that even the most sportive imagination could never have supposed it to have borne the lineaments of the 'human face divine.' It is now, I believe, in London."



THE BOA CONSTRICTOR.



THE ANACONDA.

THE BOA CONSTRICTOR AND ANACONDA.

These immense animals, many of which measure from thirty to forty feet in length, are in zoology a genus of the order "*serpentes*," of the class amphibia. The boa constrictor has a very thick body, of a dusky white colour, is marked on the back with twenty-four large, pale, irregular spots, having its sides beautifully variegated with pale spots, and its tail of a dark colour.

The head is covered with small scales, and has no broad laminae betwixt the eyes, but has a black belt behind them. The tongue is fleshy, and very little forked. Above the eyes, on each side, the head rises high. The scales of this

serpent are all very small, roundish, and smooth. It frequents caves and thick forests, where it conceals itself, and suddenly darts out upon strangers, wild beasts, &c. When it chooses a tree for its watching place, it supports itself by twisting its tail round the trunk or a branch, and darts down upon sheep, goats, tigers, or any animals that come within its reach, twists itself several times round their body, and by the vast force of its circular muscles, bruises and breaks all their bones. After the bones are broken, it licks the skin of the animal all over, besmearing it with a glutinous kind of saliva. This operation is intended to facilitate deglutition, and is a preparation for swallowing

the whole animal. If it be a stag, or any horned animal, it begins to swallow the feet first, and gradually sucks in the body, and last of all the head. After this serpent has swallowed a stag or a tiger, it is unable for some days to move; the hunters, who are well acquainted with this circumstance, always take this opportunity of destroying it. The Indians, who adore this monstrous animal, use the skin for clothes, on account of its smoothness and beauty. There are several of these skins preserved, and to be seen in the different museums of Europe. The flesh is eaten by the Indians and Negroes of Africa.

The Anaconda is supposed to be the Boa of Linnæus. It is the name given in the island of Ceylon to a large and terrible rattle-snake, which frequently devours the unfortunate traveller entire and alive. It is itself eaten by the natives of the country.

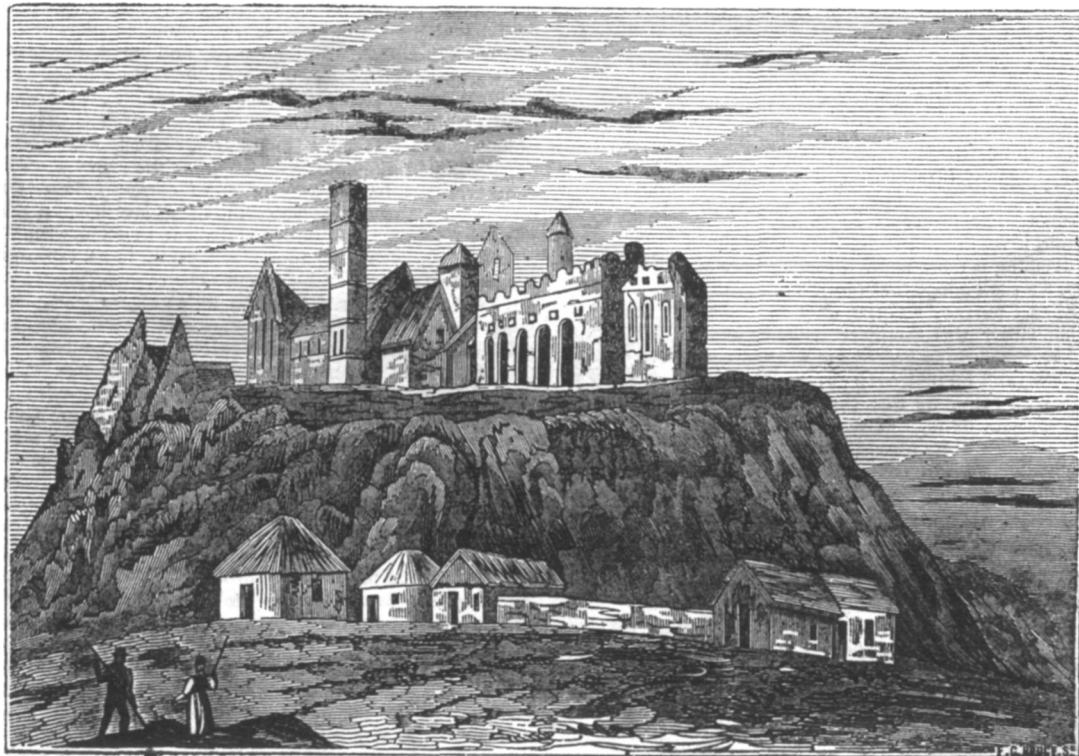
Mr. Pringle, in his African Sketches, mentions several curious particulars relative to a species of these animals, which he met with during his residence in that country:—

“I must not omit to say something also of the serpents, a class of the animal creation for which Africa is so renowned. The species commonly accounted the most dangerous at the Cape are the *cobra-capella* (which is not the *cobra di capello* of India), the *puff-adder* (*vipera inflata*, Burch.) and the *berg-adder* (or mountain snake.) The first of these is exceedingly fierce and active, and sometimes, it is said, attains the formidable length of six or seven feet; I have, however, never met with any of much more than five. The cobra has been known to spring at a man on horseback, and to dart himself with such force as to overshoot his aim. The puff-adder, on the other hand, is a heavy and sluggish animal, very thick in proportion to its length, and incapable, when attacked in front, of projecting itself upon its enemy. To make amends, however, it possesses the faculty of throwing itself backward with perilous and unexpected effect. But its disposition is inert, and unless accidentally trod upon, or otherwise provoked, it will seldom attack mankind.

“There is another species of serpent a good deal dreaded by the natives, from whom I obtained the following account of it. It is about three feet in length: its bite, though poisonous, is not fatal; but its peculiar property is the faculty it possesses of spouting its venom in the face of an assailant, or of any person approaching it

within three or four paces, when the wind is in its favour. From this singular faculty, it is called by the Cape colonists the *spug-slang*, or spitting-snake. If the venom enters the eyes, towards which the animal is supposed by instinct to squirt it, immediate blindness ensues. Several instances of permanent loss of sight from this cause were mentioned to me by intelligent Hottentots, whose veracity I had no reason to question.

“During my residence in the Cape Colony, and in the course of various journeys through the interior, I met with a considerable number of snakes; yet I do not recollect of ever being exposed, except in one instance, to any imminent danger from these reptiles. On the occasion referred to I was superintending some Hottentots, whom I had employed to clear away a patch of thicket from a spot selected for cultivation, when one of the men suddenly recoiling, with signs of great alarm, exclaimed that there was a *cobra-capella* in the bush. Not being at that time fully aware of the dangerous character of that species, I approached to look at him. The Hottentots called out to me to take care, for he was going to spring. Before they had well spoken, or I had caught a view of the reptile, I heard him hiss fiercely, and then dart himself towards me amidst the underwood. At the same instant, instinctively springing backward to avoid him, I fell over a steep bank into the stony bed of the Lynden; by which I suffered some severe bruises, but fortunately escaped the more formidable danger to which I had too incautiously exposed myself. The Hottentots then assailed the snake with sticks and stones, and forced him (though not before he had made another spring and missed one of them still more narrowly than myself) to take refuge up a mimosa tree. Here he became a safe and easy mark to their missiles, and was speedily beaten down, with a broken back, and consequently incapable of further mischief. The Hottentots having cut off his head, carefully buried it in the ground, a practice which they never omit on such occasions, and which arises from their apprehension of some one incautiously treading on the head of the dead snake, and sustaining injury from its fangs; for they believe that the deathful virus, far from being extinguished with life, retains its fatal energy for weeks, and even months, afterwards. This snake measured nearly five feet in length.”



THE ROCK OF CASHEL.

In some of our previous numbers, we gave views of detached portions of these very interesting ruins. The foregoing will afford a correct idea of the entire buildings, as they stand together.